



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7213

LCO No. 4448



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTORAL PRIVILEGES OF CERTAIN
PAROLEES AND CHALLENGERS IN THE POLLING PLACE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to
4 confinement in a federal or other state correctional institution or
5 facility or community residence shall have such person's electoral
6 privileges restored [upon the payment of all fines in conjunction with
7 the conviction and] once such person has been [discharged] released
8 from confinement. [, and, if applicable, parole.]

9 (b) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution
10 or facility or a community residence of a person who has been
11 convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the
12 Commissioner of Correction, [and, if applicable, the discharge of such
13 person from parole,] (1) the person shall have the right to become an

14 elector, (2) the Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a
15 document certifying that the person has been released from such
16 confinement, [and, if applicable, has been discharged from parole,] (3)
17 if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and,
18 after such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in the same
19 municipality in which the person resided at the time of such felony
20 conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored, and (4) if
21 the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and,
22 after such release, [and any such discharge,] is residing in a different
23 municipality or if the person was not an elector at the time of such
24 felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored or
25 granted upon submitting to an admitting official satisfactory proof of
26 the person's qualifications to be admitted as an elector. The provisions
27 of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection shall not apply to
28 any person convicted of a felony for a violation of any provision of this
29 title until such person has been discharged from any parole or
30 probation for such felony.

31 (c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is
32 admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section,
33 within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted,
34 shall notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such
35 person resided at the time of such person's conviction that such
36 person's electoral rights have been so restored.

37 (d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to
38 inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and
39 committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a
40 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are
41 eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant
42 to subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have
43 such privileges restored. The Office of Adult Probation shall, within
44 available appropriations, inform such persons who are on probation
45 on January 1, 2002, of their right to become electors and procedures to
46 have their electoral privileges restored, which shall be in accordance
47 with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

48 (e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth
49 day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all
50 persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said
51 commissioner who, during the preceding calendar month, have been
52 released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a
53 community residence. [and, if applicable, discharged from parole.]
54 Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such
55 persons, with the dates of their convictions and the crimes of which
56 such persons have been convicted. The Secretary of the State shall
57 transmit such lists to the registrars of the municipalities in which such
58 convicted persons resided at the time of their convictions and to the
59 registrars of any municipalities where the secretary believes such
60 persons may be electors.

61 Sec. 2. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

63 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United
64 States citizen, at least eighteen years of age and a resident of a town in
65 this state. [and shall not be on parole for conviction of a felony.] Any
66 individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating petition may
67 serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

68 Sec. 3. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

70 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or
71 the Secretary of the State and filed with the Secretary of the State under
72 the provisions of sections 9-453a to 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216
73 shall contain a statement as to the residency in this state and eligibility
74 of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed
75 under penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the
76 same. Such statement shall set forth (1) such circulator's residence
77 address, including the town in this state in which such circulator is a
78 resident, (2) the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at
79 least eighteen years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States

80 citizen, [and not on parole for conviction of a felony,] and (4) that each
81 person whose name appears on such page signed the same in person
82 in the presence of such circulator and that either the circulator knows
83 each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to
84 the circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to such
85 statement shall be deemed to have been committed in the town in
86 which the petition was circulated.

87 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-232 of the general statutes is
88 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
89 *1, 2019*):

90 (a) [Each registrar may appoint one or more challengers in his town
91 or district, one of whom may be present at the offering of any vote; and
92 any such challenger or any] Any elector may challenge the right of any
93 person offering to vote, on the ground of want of identity with the
94 person on whose name the vote is offered, or disfranchisement or lack
95 of bona fide residence, and the moderator shall decide upon the right
96 of the person so challenged to vote.

97 Sec. 5. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

99 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-
100 258, as amended by this act, to the contrary, a United States citizen
101 who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a
102 town may be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger or] (1) an unofficial
103 checker in an election, or (2) [appointed as] a checker, translator, ballot
104 clerk or voting tabulator tender in an election after (A) attending poll
105 worker training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent,
106 guardian or the principal of the school that the citizen attends if the
107 citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen is to be appointed
108 to work on a day when such school is in session.

109 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436 or 9-436a to the
110 contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen years of
111 age and a bona fide resident of a town or political subdivision holding

112 a primary may be [(1)] appointed as [a challenger or] (1) a candidate
113 checker in the primary, or (2) [appointed as] a checker, translator,
114 ballot clerk or voting tabulator tender in a primary after (A) attending
115 poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a
116 parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the citizen attends
117 if the citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen is to be
118 appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

119 Sec. 6. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-258 of the general statutes
120 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
121 *July 1, 2019*):

122 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the
123 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and
124 shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than
125 two official checkers, (3) two assistant registrars of voters of opposite
126 political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, (4) [not
127 more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed
128 challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (5)] at least one but not more
129 than two ballot clerks, and [(6)] (5) at least one but not more than two
130 voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling
131 place. A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election
132 official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that
133 (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the
134 same office, may perform his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy
135 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of
136 voters, may perform his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the
137 registrar of voters, the public convenience of the electors in any voting
138 district so requires, provision shall be made for an additional line or
139 lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than one line of
140 electors is established, at least one but not more than two additional
141 official checkers and at least one but not more than two ballot clerks
142 for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than one
143 tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one but not more than two
144 additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each
145 additional machine so used. Head moderators, central counting

146 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law
147 shall also be deemed election officials.

148 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials
149 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of
150 (1) one moderator, (2) at least one but not more than two official
151 checkers, (3) [not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters
152 have appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (4)] at least one
153 but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting
154 tabulator in use at the polling place, and [(5)] (4) at least one but not
155 more than two ballot clerks. Additionally, such election officials may
156 consist of two registrars of voters of opposite political parties, or two
157 assistant registrars of voters of opposite political parties, as the case
158 may be, subject to the requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439,
159 provided if the registrars of voters are present in the polling place, they
160 shall appoint at least one designee to be present in their office. A
161 known candidate for any office shall not serve as an election official on
162 election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that (A) a
163 municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
164 office, may perform his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar
165 of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters, may
166 perform his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of
167 voters, the public convenience of the electors in any voting district so
168 requires, provision shall be made for an additional line or lines of
169 electors at the polling place and, if more than one line of electors is
170 established, at least one but not more than two additional official
171 checkers for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than
172 one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one but not more than
173 two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each
174 additional tabulator so used. Head moderators, central counting
175 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law
176 shall be deemed to be election officials.

177 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 9-436 of the general statutes is
178 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
179 *1, 2019*):

180 (c) The registrar shall appoint from among the enrolled party
181 members in the state, to serve in each polling place, the primary
182 polling place officials, who shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at
183 least one [] but not more than two official checkers, [not more than
184 two challengers if the registrar deems it necessary, and] (3) at least one
185 [and] but not more than two ballot clerks, [and] (4) at least one but not
186 more than two voting tabulator tenders for each tabulator in use at
187 such primary, and [] (5) in towns with two or more voting districts, at
188 least one [and] but not more than two assistant registrars, provided
189 [(1)] (A) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision
190 holding a primary, if no enrolled party member can be found or no
191 such person consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar may
192 appoint any elector who resides in the state and is a certified
193 moderator to be moderator, [(2)] (B) in the case of a political
194 subdivision holding a primary, if an insufficient number of enrolled
195 party members who reside in the state consent to serve as checkers,
196 [challengers,] voting tabulator tenders or assistant registrars, the
197 registrar may appoint any elector who resides in the state to be a
198 checker, [challenger,] voting tabulator tender or assistant registrar, and
199 [(3)] (C) in the case of either a municipality or a political subdivision
200 holding more than one primary on the same day for different political
201 parties, one certified moderator may serve as moderator for both
202 primaries, if the registrars of voters so agree. If unaffiliated electors are
203 authorized under section 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the
204 offices to be contested at the primary, the registrar shall appoint two
205 additional checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who are
206 authorized to vote on the separate tabulators. If unaffiliated electors
207 are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of
208 two parties in the same polling place, whether for some or for all
209 offices to be contested at the primary, each such registrar shall appoint
210 two additional checkers to check the list of unaffiliated electors who
211 are authorized to vote in either such primary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-46a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-453e
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-453j
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-232(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-235d
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-258(a) and (b)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	9-436(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate registrar-appointed challengers from who may be present in the polling place during a primary or election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]